LIGHTS

Ву

Jesse Seidule

INT. DINING ROOM, NIGHT

Scenes will be cut up with a "present day" Jobe preparing for a normal day. These scenes are flashback.

A man, JOBE, and his wife EVA, talk quietly at a dinner table. They are looking over a wedding album. They have a sweet yet slightly sarsactic manner about them.

E77A

Look, Jobe, there's that guy, again!

JOBE

Who is that guy?

EVA

Who invited him?

They share a laugh. They turn the page.

JOBE

I love that dress.

EVA

Me too, you can't even tell I'm pregnant!

JOBE

Yeah, there's that too.

They share a smaller laugh, then quiet for a moment.

EVA

I hope we've done everything right.

JOBE

We have. The electronics store didn't work out, but we still have our plan, and we're doing well.

EVA

Your father called again.

JOBE sighs.

EVA

Don't you think you should reconsider your father's offer?

JOBE sits back in his chair, trying to keep cool.

CONTINUED: 2.

JOBE

I'm not going back. It took me seven years to find out police work wasn't for me. Besides, I thought you hated when I had job.

EVA

I never thought about how life would be without you working there. It's tough.

JOBE

We're getting by - we're okay.

EVA

I just didn't think we'd be wearing cheap clothes, eating cheap food, and I'm wearing a cheap ring...

JOBE

The cheaper the ring, the longer the marriage.

EVA

You keep saying that...

JOBE

Okay, in five years, I'll buy you that fancy ring you wanted, then divorce soon after.

**EVA** 

You got yourself a deal.

JOBE

Yeah, I bet.

Shared small laugh.

EVA

But really - are we going to be okay?

JOBE

Yeah, of course we are. I'm going to get this cushy desk job, and you can stay home with our new baby soon. EVA, It's all going to work, I promise.

EVA smiles, with a hint of sadness. JOBE looks back at the album.

CONTINUED: 3.

JOBE

Unlike your Dad's tux. Ruffles have been out for almost half a century.

EVA laughs without a hint of sadness.

JOBE

I know it was a cheap wedding, but damn!

EXT. JOBE'S HOME - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT

INT. JOBE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jobe is sleeping still, but a close up shot of his face shows his eyes twitching. We begin to hear a mix of voices. Most voices cannot be heard clearly, except for the following.

VOICES

It wasn't ready! Jobe, what have you done?

Jobe wakes up calmly, opening his eyes.

INT. JOBE'S KITCHEN, NIGHT

Jobe is standing in the kitchen and is drinking from the carton with the refrigerator door open. He puts the carton back, then closes the refrigerator door. When he closes it, there is his police laminate hanging on the door.

INT. JOBE'S BEDROOM HALLWAY

JOBE is in the hallway outside his room. He peeks in the bedroom to see EVA sleeping. He quietly closes the door.

INT. JOBE'S OFFICE

Jobe is on his computer doing some late night internet browsing. He is reading news stories. Headlines include strange behavior in animals, climate shifts, and riots.

JOBE

Where's the good news?

He continues to browse. He types in a web address. The computer loads up the BRPD website. Above the computer a red

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 4.

light shimmers with the shades' shadows on it. He turns around and looks at the window. There is a red light coming and going. All of a sudden, a boom is heard and JOBE is blasted away from the window. Cut to black a split second into his reaction.

Come to.

JOBE awakens on the floor. The red and white lights are everywhere. His ears are ringing, but it is going away. In its place is a churning metal sound mixed with other explosions. His hearing comes back completely.

JOBE

EVA...

JOBE springs to action.

INT. JOBE'S BEDROOM

JOBE comes through the door. It's still dark. The red and white lights are coming through the blinds here too. EVA is missing from the bed.

JOBE

EVA! EVA!

JOBE continues to shout for her as he searches the room. There is no sign of her. JOBE collapses at the bedside. The lights and sounds die out as his emotions take over. While kneeling at the bedside, he see her "cheap wedding ring" lying in the middle of her part of the bed. His hand slowly approaches it while trembling. He grasps it completely. He holds it to his heart, not wanting to believe she is gone. He pulls it away from his chest, opens his hand and looks at the ring. Cut to black.

TITLE SEQUENCE.

EXT. FOREST/WILDERNESS, DAY

The wedding ring dangles on a silver chain in the foreground. In the background is a pale, yet healthy wooded area. JOBE sits hunched over a makeshift table. A tarp hangs over what seems to be a camp. JOBE writes into an old book. The book is frayed and has been wet and dry on several occasions. Jobe's clothes are dirty as is his skin, but his nails are immaculately clean. The paper cracks as the old carpenter's pencil scribbles down his words.

CONTINUED: 5.

JOBE

(V.O. of Journal)

Almost one year and it has taken forever. Today, I go back to our home as I promised I would. If you haven't left me a message, then I hope, wherever you are, you are safe and warm.

During the voiceover, a flashback occurs of Jobe spray painting a message on a board. It reads "Meet me here on our first anniversary." The board is leaning against the door. Cut back to the writing until the last word.

INT. HOME, BEDROOM

Cut to: Short convo with EVA in bed, pillow talk setting.

EVA

I'm sorry I left.

JOBE

What?

EVA

I know it was weeks ago, but I'm sorry I left.

JOBE

I know, you said you were sorry when I found you. I understand, pre-wedding jitters and everything.

EVA

No, you don't understand. I can't believe I thought about leaving you at the altar. I can't believe what I was thinking.

JOBE

I knew you wouldn't do that.

EVA

What's wrong with me though? Why would I have considered that?

JOBE

It's okay, I found you.

EVA

How?

CONTINUED: 6.

JOBE

I quessed.

EVA

Guessed?

JOBE

It was like a 20 to one shot. You don't have many places to go.

Beat.

EVA

Lucky me then. I guess I knew you would find me.

Beat.

EVA

If I disappeared, will you come find me again?

JOBE

Yeah, I'll find you.

EXT. FOREST/WILDERNESS, DAY

JOBE

(V.O. con't)

I hope you are with people who have taken care of you and our child. I hope to see you and our child. You both keep me going when I see no reason to. Stay near my heart, EVA.

We hear another voice yelling over the end of the VO. Jobe is alert and looks all around him. A runner is approaching his camp in the distance.

RUNNER

[panting and frightened panic noises]

Jobe quickly brings down his shack to make it look abandoned. He was prepared for this. After he tears down the camp, he runs away from it and slides into a spot intended for hiding behind a log. The runner approaches.

RUNNER

I saw you tear down your camp! Help me hide, please!

CONTINUED: 7.

The runner is frantically talking to thin air in every direction. JOBE peeks through a slot to see the runner. He is dressed much like Jobe. Panic is on his face.

RUNNER

Where did you go? I'm not one of them, please!

Jobe tries to remain hidden, but can't. The runner's voice gets to him. He reveals himself from behind the log and waves to the runner. JOBE yells at him in a whisper.

JOBE

Stay low and hide here.

The runner runs to JOBE and hides with him. JOBE sneaks a look at the man's nails - they are clean.

JOBE

Don't breathe.

As they hide behind the log, in the background the same sound is heard from the night in the flashback. The whirring of metal and the red and white lights shine around the area. They hear what sound like steps or some kind of interaction with the ground, then they hear the camp being pushed over and ravaged. Another sound is heard, perhaps some form of communication? The steps run off quickly and all lights and sounds fade away. The runner begins to get up, the Jobe stops him. They wait for about five more seconds, then Jobe nods and releases the runner. They both get up.

JOBE

Move along.

RUNNER

I can't thank you enough.

JOBE unearths bag from his hiding spot.

JOBE

Don't mention it. Now go.

JOBE begins to collect his things from the camp.

RUNNER

Do you want to come back with me?

JOBE

No.

CONTINUED: 8.

RUNNER

We have others. We're camped out in a supermarket.

JOBE

Any children?

RUNNER

Some.

JOBE

I'm looking for a woman, brown hair with a baby.

RUNNER

No, no babies in our camp.

JOBE

Why are you out here?

RUNNER

Some of us went missing. Are you alone?

JOBE

I won't be here when you come back.

RUNNER

I'm not going to do anything, I was just asking.

JOBE packs up the last of his things and walks away. He holds a black Maglite in his right hand as a light and weapon. The runner follows.

RUNNER

I just want to help you for helping me.

JOBE turns back to him.

JOBE

You have anything on you? Batteries? Water?

RUNNER

No, I have a few cans of fish.

The runner hands Jobe two cans of tuna fish, no labels.

JOBE

Great, we're even.

CONTINUED: 9.

Jobe puts down his duffel bag and opens it. Inside are already plenty of cans, D batteries, flashlights, walkies, etc. The runner seems suprised. JOBE closes the bag and picks it up.

JOBE

Now leave, and forget you met me.

RUNNER

Okay, I'll forget we met.

Jobe walks away and the runner stands alone.

RUNNER

But if we had met, you'd know my name is Daniel, and we're a quarter mile south the old Rose's supermarket if you need help.

Jobe doesn't miss a step as he walks away from the runner.

EXT. CITY STREETS, DAY

JOBE crosses through the city. The city is empty and heavily damaged. Jobe passes carefully through town into the suburbs where he once lived.

EXT. IN FRONT OF JOBE'S HOUSE, DAY

JOBE is standing in front of his old house. Things are different to say the least. The board is lying on the ground and the front door is open. JOBE approaches the board. The cans of spray paint remain on the ground, only scattered. He lifts the board back up in front of the door. He examines his words he once wrote, then emotions get to him as he reads the bottom. New paint is sprayed below his message that reads, "I'm OK". Jobe bends to one knee, believing, at least for this moment, his wife has come and wrote this message. Then, he takes hold of his emotions, looks over his shoulder both ways, then gets up. He moves the board forward, then slides in behind it to enter the home.

INT. JOBE'S RUNDOWN HOME, DAY

Jobe walks throughout the house. It sparks a flashback.

INT. JOBE'S HOME, FLASHBACK

Jobe and EVA are at home. They are sitting at the table working on a puzzle.

EVA

I haven't seen any of your friends since the wedding. They don't think I've become some succubus of a wife, do they?

JOBE

Of course, I blame everything on you.

JOBE smiles as he jokes.

EVA

Ha. Ha.

JOBE

We're in honeymoon phase. Those guys will still be around when I'm tired of you.

 ${\sf EVA}$ 

But I'm already so tired of you!

JOBE

Good, because I am meeting them in this weekend for the football draft.

EVA

Oh, you're such a nerd.

JOBE

It's sports! It's not nerdy.

EVA

Oh, it's sooo nerdy.

JOBE

You're just mad I'm leaving you alone here.

EVA

I'll be fine. I've got so many programs DVR'd that I'm just gonna veg out that day.

CONTINUED: 11.

JOBE

Aw, now I'm mad, I don't want you to stay here by yourself. Come with me.

EVA

To watch you guys draft?

JOBE

Yeah! You just can't make any noise or movement, and you have to set your phone to vibrate. Actually, you better just turn it off.

**EVA** 

That sounds like a blast, but I'll have to pass.

JOBE

You're gonna make me miss you, aren't you?

ΕVA

Yeah, it's healthy to miss each other. (Beat) Don't alienate your friends, Jobe. - everyone needs friends. I could be gone tomorrow and they would be all you have.

They laugh as the flashbacks end.

INT. JOBE'S RUNDOWN HOME, DAY

Jobe's reflects on that moment, then leaves the house.

EXT. RUNNER'S CAMP, NIGHT

Jobe spots the camp through the trees. There is a fire lit and people talking near the fire. Jobe continues on and approaches the camp. As he approaches, some of the campers double-take, and one of the camp's guards raises a gun toward Jobe.

CAMP GUARD

Who are you? What are you doing here?

JOBE

My name, is Jobe. I was invited to come here by a man named Daniel.

CONTINUED: 12.

CAMP GUARD

Hey Daniel, do you know this man?

Daniel approaches from the dark and into the light of the campfire.

DANIEL

Never seen him before.

Jobe's jaw drops a little.

DANIEL

I'm kidding, yeah! This guy saved my hide. Put the gun down, we all know it ain't loaded.

The camp guard lowers the gun, then extends his hand out to Jobe.

CAMP GUARD

I'm Hector.

As he shakes his hand, Hector turns his hand to look at his nails.

JOBE

Jobe.

**HECTOR** 

Sorry, just making sure you're not eating the wrong meat, you know what I'm saying?

JOBE

Yeah.

HECTOR

That's my family, Julie and my kid, Carson. I'm sure you'll meet everyone else in time. Go ahead and sit down.

JOBE puts down his duffel bag, then sits by the fire. His eyes still show that he doesn't trust those around him. Daniel sits next to him.

DANIEL

Didn't make a lot of sense, did it?

JOBE

What?

CONTINUED: 13.

DANIEL

Being alone, out there. Didn't make sense. It didn't make sense to me when I met you out there. I mean, I know there are people like you all around, but things aren't going to get back to normal when you're out there by yourself.

JOBE

I've worked in groups before. Didn't work out.

DANIEL

Why?

JOBE

It just didn't.

DANIEL

This camp's been together since the beginning of the end. Everyone has their own story, as I'm sure you do as well. Want to talk about it?

JOBE

No.

DANIEL

You will. There isn't much else to talk about. Sure, you can talk about how things used to be, but that gets depressing quick. Most people's stories now begin on the night they saw the lights. I can you tell my story if you want to hear it.

JOBE

Maybe some other time.

DANIEL

Okay, all we have is time. (beat) So, why did you come here?

JOBE

Someone once told me that people need people, and I think it's time I give it another shot.

From the other side of the fire, Hector speaks up.

CONTINUED: 14.

HECTOR

What happened to your other group?

DANIEL

I don't think he wants to talk about it.

**HECTOR** 

He needs to. We need a reason to trust you, or not to.

JOBE

Fair enough. Early on, just a few days after the lights appeared, I found a group who promised me they would help me find my wife. I joined them. They called themselves the survivors. I knew it was trouble when they felt the need to label themselves as such. They never helped me. They never helped anyone. They were just hiring bodies for protection and power, and paying in empty promises. Most people stayed for the bravado, but they were a bad crowd. I left them months ago. I later discovered they were mostly inmates from Angola.

DANIEL

We've seen them around. When you aren't running from the lights, you're running from them.

**HECTOR** 

That's the only group you've been with?

**JOBE** 

Yeah.

The fire continues to flicker on the group.

DANIEL

So what do you think happened?

JOBE

I try not to think about it.

DANIEL

I think it's a Chinese invasion. Those lights we see are Chinese supersoldiers. I know it cause they're human!

CONTINUED: 15.

HECTOR

No more theories Daniel, please! You have a new one every week. Aliens, government, God's pissed! That's my favorite one, because it's probably true!

DANIEL

We find out the truth and we can find the solution!

HECTOR

No, all we need to do is survive.

DANIEL

Baah, we can only hide for so long. Our stash of goods will be gone, then what? We fight back the invasion!

**HECTOR** 

Before that happens, we move forward with our plan.

JOBE

What plan?

**HECTOR** 

Move away from the city, plant crops. Begin a new town, go from there.

DANIEL

This city's done. We're using perishables while we have them, but eventually that will all be gone. Then what? There's no fallout around here, so I'm sure the land is still good. Hell, there may even be crops out there.

JOBE

I can't leave here. My wife is out there somewhere.

DANIEL

How do you know?

JOBE

I left a message at our home. I went there today. There was a response. It said "I'm okay".

Daniel and Hector look doubtful.

CONTINUED: 16.

JOBE

I know anyone could have wrote it, but that doesn't matter. Whether or not she wrote it, I still believe it's true.

EXT. RUNNER'S CAMP, MORNING

The fire has extinguished overnight. The sun shines through the trees through a thick air.

EXT. MONTAGE OF JOBE APPROACHING CITY

Include Jobe:

Walking past closed plant

Walking across empty bridge

Walking past levee with downed powerlines near house

EXT. CITY STREETS, MORNING

JOBE is in the city looking for salvagable items: radios, food, etc. He turns a corner and encounters two men. They are not pleasant looking. Mad Max style manner of dress. They speak in a classic Southern accent.

SURVIVOR #1

Hold up!

Jobe looks behind him and sees a third man stop looking through trash to approach him.

SURVIVOR #2 (EDGAR)

Well, I knew it was a small world, but damn.

Survivor #3 approaches closer behind him. JOBE has his Maglite in hand.

**EDGAR** 

You don't remember my name, do you?

Jobe stands his ground. Edgar points to himself.

**EDGAR** 

Edgar.

Edgar points to Jobe.

CONTINUED: 17.

**EDGAR** 

You're Jobe. I do remember. We were both fresh faces among the survivors at one time. I guess we didn't know each other too well them, but I know you now.

Edgar taps his own head. Jobe still isn't talking.

**EDGAR** 

I remember you left too. It got better after you left, I gotta say. Hell, I still have your going away present.

Edgar holds up his hand and has a wedding ring on it. Edgar's nails - dirty, black. Bloodstained hands.

**EDGAR** 

We got a good hold up in one of those ole' government buildings. All the MRE's you could ever want.

JOBE

I don't think you're eating MRE's.

**EDGAR** 

Heh, really. What makes you say that?

JOBE

I can smell your breath from here.

**EDGAR** 

People are programmed to survive, Jobe. Like I said, things are different. Come on back! The gang is fulfilling more and more promises every day. Hell, found a new group of survivors out near where you used to live. If I remember correctly, you were missing your wife, weren't you?

JOBE

You don't have my wife.

**EDGAR** 

I don't think you really believe that 100% percent, am I right?

CONTINUED: 18.

JOBE

What do you want?

**EDGAR** 

I'm just catching up. I still feel like you owe us more than this little ring.

Edgar's eyes shift to the person behind Jobe.

SURVIVOR #3 attempts to attack Jobe. Jobe does a full spin with his Maglite extended out and cracks SURVIVOR #3's jaw completely. SURVIVOR #3 falls to the ground as Edgar attacks JOBE. JOBE steps to the side and Edgar falls forward and onto the ground. As SURVIVOR #1 follows in with an attack, Jobe swings back his left fist followed by an overhead swing of his flashlight. Jobe finds the opportunity to run away and takes it. Edgar recovers off the ground and watches JOBE run and take a corner.

EXT. BUILDING ROOFTOP, DAY

JOBE spends some time alone on top of a building. He looks over the top as if to check if he is being followed. Jobe is looking at the ring from around his neck. Begin flashback.

INT. JOBE'S LIVING ROOM, NIGHT

EVA

(from other room)

Okay, I found it!

JOBE gets up from the couch.

INT. JOBE'S OFFICE, NIGHT

EVA is sitting in front of the computer. She is point at the screen.

EVA

This is the one! This is it!

JOBE takes a look at the screen.

JOBE

Wow, that is quite a ring.

JOBE shows worry, so EVA is now doubtful.

CONTINUED: 19.

EVA

I know, it's expensive.

JOBE

Yeah, but if it's what you want...

EVA

It isn't. Well, it is, and it isn't. Its hard shopping for ring. The more I look at these rings, the more I think "I'd be happy wearing any of these". I like them all.

JOBE

What do you like more about this one?

EVA

I couldn't tell you. I feel like such a gold digger.

JOBE

It is a lot for something you're not going to wear all the time.

EVA

I know I said I don't like to wear jewelry to bed, but I'd make an exception for this one.

JOBE

Haha, okay...

EVA looks at the screen and reconsiders.

EVA

...No. Here.

EVA makes a few clicks.

EVA

This is the one I want.

JOBE

That one...

EVA

Yes. When I look at it, there's nothing I have to think about. There it is - it has nothing to hide. I won't ever expect more from it and it'll be more than I'll ever want, because of what it really means.

CONTINUED: 20.

JOBE

I'll go with that. They say 'the cheaper the ring, the longer the marriage'.

EVA

Who says that?

JOBE

Not sure, but sounds right. You're sure you want to wear this ring for the rest of your life?

EVA looks at the screen.

**EVA** 

Absolutely.

EXT. BUILDING ROOFTOP

The sun sets on the building rooftop as Jobe continues to look at the ring.

EXT. ROAD TRAVEL, NIGHT

Jobe is making his way back to the camp. He hears something behind him. He snaps his flashlight up quickly like a draw in the old west. He spins around and quickly examines his surroundings. He sees nothing. A voice speaks up from the darkness, same voice from the dream.

VOICE

We had to make some changes.

Jobe continues searching through the dark.

VOICE

Jobe. This has to end.

Jobe pulls out a road flare and lights it in the night. When it lights the area, the voices stop. Nothing is around. When the road flare light fades, cut to a man nearby, watching Jobe. The road flare light fades out completely to black.

EXT. RUNNER'S CAMP, NIGHT

Jobe arrives back at the camp. Hector pulls a gun on him as he approaches since he can't see him.

CONTINUED: 21.

HECTOR

(shouting to Jobe)

Hold it!

Jobe stops, hands up.

DANIEL

(yelling off camera)

Is it another one?

Hector sees that it's Jobe.

HECTOR

(To Daniel)

Nah, it's Jobe.

Hector lowers his gun.

HECTOR

Man, I thought you took off.

JOBE

Not yet. What did you mean 'another one'?

HECTOR

Crazy woman came into camp a little while ago. Had four show up from the north in the last hour.

JOBE

Maybe she's seen EVA. Where is she?

Hector points under a tarp.

INT. TARP

Hector holds open the tarp as Jobe enters. Daniel is giving the woman water. Daniel turns around to look at Jobe, and when he does, Jobe can see the woman is EVA.

JOBE

EVA.

Jobe bends to a knee and holds her hand.

JOBE

EVA - are you hurt?

EVA

Oh my... (laughs of relief) Jobe.

CONTINUED: 22.

DANIEL

She's not hurt, just tired.

JOBE lifts her up and hugs her.

DANIEL

She hasn't said much since she got here. Try to find out where she's been. I'll give you a moment.

JOBE and EVA continue embrace one another.

JOBE

Where is our baby?

EVA

With them.

JOBE

Them? Who?

EVA

The light. The lights. They have her.

JOBE

Her... it's a girl...

EVA

Yeah. We have a girl. Her name is Elizabeth.

A moment.

EVA

They say they'll keep her safe, but I don't trust them.

JOBE

They spoke to you? What are they?

EVA

I'm not sure. It's like they kept us sedated. It's so loud there. The lights are bright.

JOBE

EVA. I still can't believe you're here. How did you find me?

EVA

It was like a 20 to one shot. You don't have many places you go.

CONTINUED: 23.

A hint of the "old life" came out there.

EVA

And I got tired to waiting for you to find me.

JOBE

You're safe now. And we'll get her back. Here, I kept this for you.

Jobe, still on one knee, gives EVA back her ring.

EVA

Where's your ring?

JOBE

It was taken from me.

EVA nods and understands.

JOBE

I'll get it back.

EXT. RUNNER'S CAMP, FIRESIDE

Jobe, EVA, Hector, Daniel and others in the camp are around the fire. It's all business.

DANIEL

Man, you're crazy, you can't go back.

EVA

It's just a small camp. It won't take much to overrun it.

DANIEL

Overrun it? You don't even know what's in there. You can barely remember anything!

EVA

I remember they weren't smart enough to keep an eye on me.

DANIEL

Maybe they wanted you to leave.

EVA is shocked that Daniel might be right, then looks to JOBE.

CONTINUED: 24.

JOBE

I'm going with her.

Daniel scoffs.

JOBE

She only left there for help. Our child isn't the only one in there. I can understand why you'd want to stay Hector, you have your family, but Daniel - you want the truth? Hell, an hour ago we all thought these things came from nowhere. Now we find out they are holding people captive in camps? Come with us, they'll have the truth!

DANIEL

I don't want to become anyone's guinea pig.

**HECTOR** 

I'll come with you. (beat) I'm the best here with a weapon, and also... Well, I guess its because I have a family that I have to help you get yours back.

JOBE

Thank you. Anyone else?

The camp is quiet.

JOBE

Please, everyone. We need whatever help we can get. (beat) A year ago, many people disappeared. For what reason, how or why - Who knows. And we had everything. We had everything but the ability to stop what happened. The only thing that's changed are the presence of these "lights". If they made the world the way it is now, what's to stop them from making it worse? This time, we have nothing. I'm not saying you have to fight them, you don't. But one day, you're not going to have a choice.

More campers agree. "I'll come, I'll come". Other campers walk away, but more agree to help. Daniel scoffs at the effect of the speech. Over the heads of some campers, the red and white lights appear through the trees.

CONTINUED: 25.

DANIEL Looks like I might be fighting with you after all.

The lights spread 180 degrees from the center of vision. Cut to black. Show title, Credits.